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Part V

Environmental Protection Agency

Review of Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources: Secondary Brass and Bronze Ingot Production

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[40 CFR Part 60]

[FRL-1231-1]

Review of Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources: Secondary Brass and Bronze Ingot Production

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Review of Standards.

SUMMARY: EPA has reviewed the standard of performance for secondary brass and bronze ingot production plants (40 CFR 60. 130, Subpart M). The review is required under the Clean Air Act, as amended August 1977. The purpose of this notice is to announce EPA's intent not to undertake revision of the standards at this time.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 20, 1979.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the Central Docket Section (A-130). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20460, Attention: Docket No. A-79-10. The Document "A Review of Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources—Secondary Brass and Bronze Plat Plants" (EPA-450/3-79-011) is available upon request from Mr. Robert Ajax (MD-13), Emission Standards and Engineering Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Ajax, telephone: (919) 541-5271.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In June of 1973, the EPA proposed a standard under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act to control particulate matter emissions from secondary brass and bronze ingot production plants (40 CFR 60.230, Subpart M). The standard, promulgated in March 1974, limits the discharge of any gases into the atmosphere from a reverberatory furnace which;

1. Contain particulate matter in excess of 50 mg/dscm (0.022 gr/dscf).

2. Exhibit 20 percent opacity or greater.

In addition, any blast (cupola) or electric furnace may not emit any gases which exhibit 10 percent opacity or greater.

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 require that the Administrator of the EPA review and, if appropriate, revise established standards of performance for new stationary sources at least every 4 years [Section 111(b)(1)(B)]. This notice announces that EPA has completed a review of the standard of performance for secondary brass and bronze ingot production plants and invites comment on the results of this review.

Findings

Industry Statistics

In 1969, there were approximately 60 brass and bronze ingot production facilities in the United States. Currently, only 35 facilities are operational, and only one facility has become operational since the promulgation of the NSPS in 1974. No new facilities or modifications are know to be currently planned or under construction.

Ingot production has shown a steady decline from the 1966 peak year production of 315,000 Mg (347,000 tons) to a low of 160,000 Mg (186,000 tons) in 1975, the last year for which nationwide statistics were published. The decline has been caused by a decline in the demand for products made with brass or bronze and large scale substitution of other materials or technologies for the previously used brass or bronze. No information has been reported which would indicate a reversal of the decline in brass and bronze ingot production or in the number of operating plants.

Emissions and Control Technology

The current best demonstrated control technology, the fabric filter, is the same as when the standards were originally promulgated. No major improvements in this technology have occurred during the intervening period.

High-pressure drop venturi scrubbers are used, to some extent, in the brass and bronze industry, but their overall control efficiency is lower than that of fabric filters. Electrostatic precipitators have not been used in the industry due to both the low gas flow rates and high resistivity of metallic fumes.

Only one facility has become subject to the standard since its original promulgation. This facility was tested in February 1978. The average test result of 16.9 milligrams/dry standard cubic meters (mg/dscm), or 0.0074 grains/dry standard cubic feet (gr/dscf), is lower than most of the test data used for justification of the current standard of 50 mg/dscm (0.022 gr/dscf), but this single test is not considered sufficient to draw any overall conclusion about improved control technology.

Fugitive emissions continue to be a problem in the brass and bronze industry. In most cases, these emissions are very difficult to capture and equally difficult to measure during testing. It was primarily for the former reason that the current particulate standard does not apply during pouring of the ingots. This overall situation has not changed in that only complete enclosure of the furnace can result in full control of fugitive emissions. However, information is available indicating that there may be additives capable of reducing fugitive emissions during pouring. Also, improved control of fugitive emissions may be possible through improved hood design.

Conclusions

Based on the above findings, EPA concludes that the existing standard of performance is appropriate and no revision is needed. While extension of the standard to include fugitive emissions would be possible, the lack of anticipated growth in the industry does not justify such action.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: All interested persons are invited to comment on this review and the conclusions.

Dated: June 12, 1979.

Douglas M. Costle,

Administrator.

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